Delhi, N.Y., Oct.5,1921.

Rev. Harold M. Robinson, D.D.
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Harold:-

I have had sent you by mail the copy of by-laws for our Board. You will notice that I have made some changes which are slight but I think improve the work. The date of the annual meeting I placed the third Tuesday which you may deem wise to change. It was difficult to determine the day most convenient to all. I am convinced that neither the first nor the second Tuesday will permit a large attendance. I cut out the provision regarding the President and Business Committee, as we proposed. You will notice the little clause regarding the Assistant Treasurer, it seems to me that it meets the situation. I also took the liberty of substituting the words "Someone authorized by him" instead of "or his assistant" if you wish to change it back, I have no objection, but I thought my clause would allow greater flexibility as to the signing of checks. Permit me to say that I thought your remarks relative to Christian Education and the proposal for Text Books to be most excellent. I talked with

Kennedy about them and he would like to publish an article from your office in regard to them. It would seem to me a wise thing to send him one.

Just a word as to salaries. It was told me twice on Tuesday that the officers and employees of the Board were not pleased with my remarks that I was absolutely opposed to further increases of salary at present. I am sorry to displease you or any of the staff, but I do not recede from that statement as a general principle. At this time I think we should be most cautious and reduce rather than raise. My good friend Laird is vehemently on the opposite side, which is his perfect right. However, I recall he had my position sometime ago and has changed it in the interest of Mr. Somerndike. I believe Somerndike to be perhaps the most useful man on the Staff, and in friendship I hold none higher. If any is to be raised I think he is the one, but someone must raise a protest against increasing one salary to match another. The trouble is we equalize then an ardent friend secures an increase for someone and the rest must be again raised. Please do not consider me as stubborn or heated in this matter but as a Trustee of of Church Funds and knowing the increasing criticism of salaries paid to men by the Boards I am confident that wisdom would call a halt. The employees should be encouraged to withhold demands.

I know Somerndike did not suggest this increase for himself, and I presume it was passed at the meeting yesterday. My only object is to put on the brakes for the present at least. I hope you understand my position.

Most cordially yours,

W.C.R/L.G.

REV. JOHN NEIL ROBERTSON

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.
Delhi, N.Y.

N. Y., Sep. 2 1921.

My dear Dr. Robinson,

Mr. Morrison surprised me this mng with the news that thou also hast been Shavertonianized. Had I known this sooner I would have utilized your kge of the place. I cald one day to see your father, of whose interest I did know, but he was from home. I have otherwise avoided my ministerial neighbors.

I came here for quiet + rest after France + operations. I decided qkly the church should disband or build. No use continuing to lure honest men here + let a few cut their throats. It was hard for a stranger to put a new church down the throats of unwilling people. Hard to dominate them in the face of the fact that they wanted a pastor to be a door mat. My chief elder resigned + I promptly accepted and thus warded off a large secession. I have never yet allowed a congtn to split. They can get mad at me but never at one another. They sd the valley would be flooded for power dam. Sd R.R. wd stop. Sd Hard times. Sd cdnt pay more than $2000. They plotted to kill the thing in 100 ways. Finally the day the last contractor uneliminated was due, 3 of the Bldg C'tee resigned + tried to get the others to resign. I phoned the contractor. He was postponing his arrival a few days. I told him I wd give him $20 to come that day. He came. I got a car. Pickt 1 man at a baseball match, another 2 miles out on a farm + in a field we signed. They are still circulating lies about an unpayable debt + so on. There will not be 2 cents of debt if I keep my health. Much wd hv. bn easier hd I waitd till next yr but I cdnt wait as I may hv to go south if winter is severe.

They refused to pay for the campaign. Even yet only 1 or 2 mbrs have pd a cent. + yet we have spent $2000. There is a chance that I shall get back all my outlays over $1000.

$1000 loss will be cheap if I build a ho. & church & save the church fm. dissolution & the community fm proselytism. Then I can quit & let an easy pastor come who will attend to the spiritualities & he ought to have a membership within 2/3 yrs of 150. This is a stronger opp. than it appears. A much better field than Mytville or Downsville.

I was up at H Monday writing & 3 Tues. writing & yesterday I surrendered & sent to Ilion for a typewriter & so my campaign correspondence will be easier & more effective.

I was in yr church a short time ago. Chas. S. Robinson of musical fame was one of my predecessors in one parish. The Robertsons are brusque. The Robinsons are suave.

Some day when you have a missionary in your pulpit run down here & preach for me. Mng. or mng & evening. I got out 100 for Morrison & can do better for you if the season is propitious. It will be your last chance to speak in the old church. I may dismantle it in a few weeks. I must get rid of it to preclude future complications. They may complain that keeping up the new church is too expensive.

I am sorry the trouble happened. We have lost $2000 or more on a/c of them except per contra it roused up all the Scotch in me. I wanted a larger church. I wanted space for a pipe organ. I wanted many things so as to make the church so efficient that another denomination would not dare enter destructively.

This is written hastily to catch the mail.

Yours sincerely

John Neil Robertson.

Fix the date.

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION
AND SABBATH SCHOOL WORK
PHILADELPHIA

REV. HAROLD McA. ROBINSON, D.D. SECRETARY
410 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

June 8, 1920

My dear "Major":

I am a good deal disturbed about your letter to Miss Norton, which I have asked for the privilege of answering. She has been loyally trying to carry a heavy load, and if she is at fault at all, in the large aspects of the matter, it is because she has tried to do too much. At the time the General Assembly was on, and before and after, she was in conference with Miss Lynn of Tennessee whom she was trying to acquaint with our policies as a further equipment for efficient service in the field; she was writing the Junior Uniform Quarterly in order to save money for the Board and to increase her own efficiency; she was helping with the preparation of the children for the Pageant; and for three days during the General Assembly, she was attending a Sunday School Convention in Wilmington, Delaware. That explains why your request was not more promptly handled. The address to your father was a stenographer's error, for which Miss Norton is not directly responsible.

You say in your letter to her that you are not surprised that the Board is criticized when its work is so poorly done. I think that if you would carefully investigate the matter you would find that whatever criticism of the Board there is, is not and has not been directed to Miss Norton. I have been very much impressed with her very unusual qualifications for the work she is doing, and I hear the most enthusiastic reports from her work wherever she goes.

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION
AND SABBATH SCHOOL WORK
PHILADELPHIA

REV. HAROLD McA. ROBINSON, D.D. SECRETARY
410 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

Of course, it is true that this time you were not promptly served, but it seems to me that you have taken the matter too seriously. I would not have thought that you could have written such a letter to Miss Norton, and certainly not without marking it "personal" so that the stenographer who opens the mail and sorts out the routine matters might not have had the benefit of your criticism.

There is "no heat" in this letter, either. I wish that I could talk the matter over with you, but I feel it only just to say that if this letter of mine seems inefficient, it is at least prompt, and is written on a typewriter to which I am not thoroughly accustomed.

Most sincerely yours,

H. McA. Robinson

211 Grant Street
Cape May, N.J.

HHR

My dear Dr. Robinson,

Yesterday as I sat in our little Church here, my thoughts were with you and my North minster friends. I regret very much that I was not able to be with you on your last Sunday there. Also not there to give you my good wishes personally. Though written, they are none the less sincere.

We will all miss you so much but we know

you will be happy as well as interested and busy in your new work.

With kindest thoughts for yourself and Mrs Robinson, I am

very sincerely,
Helen T H Remington